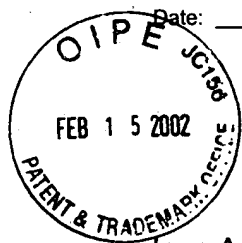


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Date: January 18, 2002

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Carol A. See

PATENT

Docket No. GC636-2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Marc Kolkman

Serial No.: 09/975,132

Filed: October 9, 2001

For: Enhanced Secretion of a Polypeptide)
by a Microorganism)

Group Art Unit: 1641

Examiner: Unassigned

Preliminary Amendment

Box Missing Parts
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments.

In the specification:

In the specification after page 39, insert pages 1-8 enclosed herewith.

On page 5, please replace the paragraph starting on line 21 with the following:

Figure 3. Stability of hIL-3 variants with different C-terminal tags.

(A). Western blot analysis of hIL-3 protein variants produced by *B. subtilis* 168 transformed with plasmid pLATIL3 (lane 1), pLATIL3BStag (expression of hIL-3 with a C-terminal *B. subtilis* SsrA tag (AA-tag): hIL-3-AGKTNSFNQNALAA (SEQ ID NO:1); lane 2), pLATIL3DDtag (expression of hIL-3 with a DD-tag: hIL-3-AGKTNSFNQNALDD (SEQ ID NO:2); lane 3), and pLATIL3ECTag (expression of hIL-